

## **JANE NELSON LEAVING SENATE** **– BECOMES SEC. OF STATE**

After thirty years and fifteen sessions Sen. Nelson, from Flower Mound representing Denton and Tarrant County, will retire from the Senate and has accepted an appointment from Gov. Abbott to be the next Secretary of State. One of the nicest members in the pink dome.



New Texas secretary of state promises 'accurate, timely' election results

<https://www.amarillo.com/story/news/local/texas/state-bureau/2022/12/06/new-texas-secretary-of-state-promises-accurate-timely-election-results/69705299007/>

## **SEN. KIRK WATSON REELECTED**

### **AUSTIN MAYOR**

Former State Senator Kirk Watson, who also served as the Austin Mayor from 1997 to 2001 won the runoff 50.4 to 49.6 by 886 votes against Rep. Celia Israel to be the next Mayor of Austin for a two year term. He lost Travis County but made up the deficit in precincts in Hays and Williamson County.

Watson, 64, ran unsuccessfully for Attorney General in 2002 losing to Gov. Greg Abbott. He succeeded Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos as State Senator in 2007, serving until 2020.

One of many accomplishments as Mayor was moving the airport from Mueller to the Bergstrom Air Force Base. Watson graduated from Baylor University. Best wishes Kirk!





MEMBER’S STATISTICS FOR THE 87<sup>th</sup>

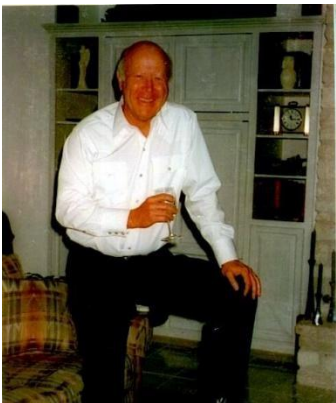
Here are some interesting stats for the member’s of the 87th –that’s now, the 88th will convene on Tuesday Jan. 10, 2022. I was particularly struck by the numbers over the age of 60; 46 in the House and 15 in the Senate with 17 in the House over the age of 70 and 8 in the Senate. What are they thinking?

<https://lrl.texas.gov/legeLeaders/members/memberStatistics.cfm>

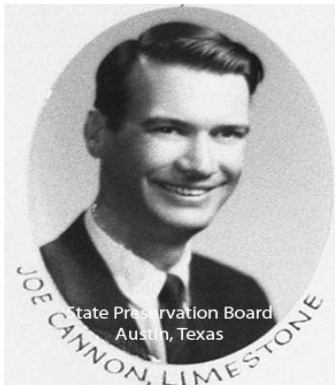
IN MEMORIAM  
THOSE WE LOST THIS YEAR



Rep. Bennie Bock



Burt “Buddy” Brown  
– Buster Brown’s brother



Rep. Joe Cannon



Virginia Carter  
– spouse of Rep. Bill Carter



Rep. Donald Cartwright



Rep. Rick Crawford



Rep. Lloyd Criss \*



Abbie Davis  
– spouse of Rep. Bob Davis



Rep. Dave Finney





Rep. Dan Flynn



Rep. Martin Garcia



Sen. Bill Haley



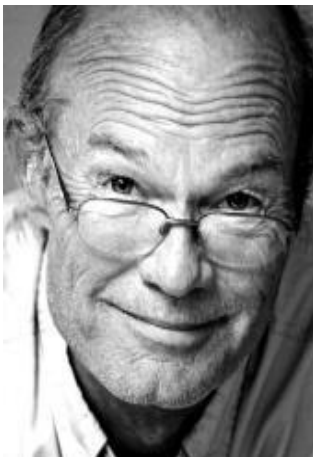
Sandra Hubenak  
– spouse of Rep. Joe Hubenak



Rep. Sam Hudson



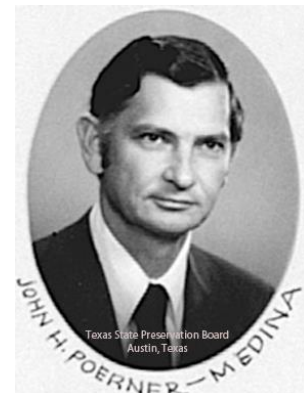
Janet Merritt  
– spouse of Rep. Tommy Merritt



Jack Morrison  
– spouse of Rep. Geannie Morrison



Linda Mueller  
Chief of Staff – Sen. Armbrister



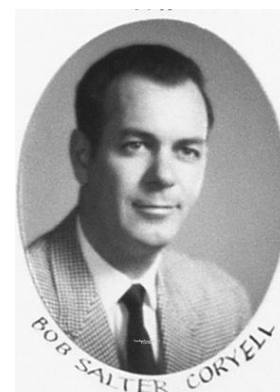
Rep. John Poerner



Rep. Tom Ramsey



Rep. Randall Riley



Rep. Robert Salter



Sheree Schneider  
– sister of Rep. Debra  
Danburg



Jocelyn Straus  
– mother of Speaker Joe Straus



Rep. Bob Turner



Rep. Larry Warner



Rep. Sarah Weddington

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Rep. Joe Wyatt

\* Lloyd Criss passed away on May 5, 2020 but due to COVID he wasn't interred until 2022.

\*\* Sarah Weddington passed away on Dec. 26, 2021 and she was interred in 2022.

### **Requiescat in pace**

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Please join me in welcoming Rob Eissler to our Capitol Group.



Rep. Rob Eissler  
2003 – 2013  
Five sessions 78<sup>th</sup> – 82<sup>nd</sup>  
The Woodlands, Montgomery  
County  
Chair, Public Education

## **HOUSE “BILLS”**

“When Bill Clements became the first Republican elected Governor of Texas in 1978, we had a period where the top three officials were all named “Bill” .....Clements, Lt.Gov Bill Hobby and Speaker Bill Clayton. One day, during the 67th session “1981)” , as i looked around the chamber it appeared to me we had



I know...just mindless trivia, but maybe it will help stir up nice memories for those of us still around.” -Bill Ceverha



Thanks to Rep. Bill Ceverha for this great picture of the House “Bills.”

# **REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS**

## **Lest We Forget**



Sen. Bob McFarland  
b. 6/12/1941/d. 7/23/2014(73)



Rep. Doc Arnold  
b. 9/8/1941 d. 5/23/2015(66)

## **SEN. JEFF WENTWORTH & HIS BULLOCK STORIES**

### IV.

The Council of State Governments (CSG) is a nonpartisan, non-profit national organization that serves all three branches of state government.

The national annual meeting of CSG in December 1994 was at Pinehurst, a storied golf resort in North Carolina, and my wife Karla and I attended.

A several day affair, the business meeting of the national board of governors was scheduled for a Sunday, and as it turned out, Texas' only member of the board, Senator Carl Parker, although registered to attend, did not make the trip. He had been unexpectedly defeated for re-election to the Senate the previous month and chose not to travel to North Carolina in his last 30 days in public office.

With his absence, however, Texas would have no vote at the board meeting, and, although there were other Texas legislators at the conference, I appeared to be the only member present interested in attending the business meeting and representing the State of Texas.

The problem arose when I attempted to substitute myself for Senator Parker at the board meeting. I was informed that the rules of CSG required that only those legislators who had been designated in writing by the presiding officer of their legislative body would be allowed to sit on the board and cast a vote for their state.

In an effort to prevent Texas not being represented at the board meeting, I asked that, in view of the exigent circumstances, I be allowed to sit in Senator Parker's place. Sherry, a top assistant to Dan Sprague, executive director of CSG, conveyed my

request to Sprague at the beginning of the meeting in the resort's ballroom while I stood in the rear of the room.

Although I couldn't hear what he said while he was sitting up front, I could see him shake his head from side to side, denying my request.

In an additional effort to make sure Texas did not lose our representation at the board meeting, I placed a long distance telephone call to Governor Bullock at his home in Austin and explained the situation, and he asked me to hand the phone to Sherry. Bullock explained to Sherry that I needed to be seated in Senator Parker's place, that he would fax a confirmation of his designation of me as Texas' representative the next day when his office was open, and then, just in case she or Sprague didn't fully understand what he said, used salty, direct language to tell them if I were not seated he would have Texas drop our membership and very significant annual dues payment to CSG.

With that inauspicious beginning, I was seated that day on the national board of governors and commenced service representing the State of Texas for 18 years, as well as serving as chair of CSG's 21 st Century Foundation and chair of CSG's 15-state Southern Legislative Conference.

#### V.

Every member of the Texas Legislature, if they care to, may be buried in the Texas State Cemetery. I had served nearly five years in the Texas House of Representatives before moving over to the Texas Senate but had never gone over to the cemetery to select a plot in which to be buried.

So when Governor Bullock asked whether I had selected a plot yet, and I told him "no," he said I needed to go over right away, because "the good ones are going fast." And he admonished me not to select a plot down the hill near the fence on East Seventh Street.

When I asked him "Why?" he said, "You don't want to have people driving by on Friday and Saturday nights and throwing their beer cans over the fence on top of your grave. Pick one farther up on the hill."

So I did.

## **GUEST COLUMN: Texas high school football's influence | Columns | weatherforddemocrat.com**

Here's a great column recently published in the Weatherford Democrat by Sen. Kim Brimer on the impact of high school football.

[https://www.weatherforddemocrat.com/opinion/columns/guest-column-texas-high-school-footballs-influence/article\\_2addf612-999e-5725-9f48-876989aec763.html](https://www.weatherforddemocrat.com/opinion/columns/guest-column-texas-high-school-footballs-influence/article_2addf612-999e-5725-9f48-876989aec763.html)





## **LRL CLIPPING SERVICE**

<https://lrl.texas.gov/currentIssues/clips/lrlhome.cfm>

## **DOME BOY'S BLOG**

I have been following the ruckus at the Capitol about the reelection of Speaker Phelan (who will be overwhelmingly reelected) and now the cries from a few that no Democrats should be appointed committee chairs.

I think most of us always considered ourselves part-time state officials, focused more out of session on our day jobs. To me this was part of the reason we were different than D.C. We had an aisle in the chamber but we all sat together, had lunch together, played golf together.

Let's hope that the chamber stays as non-partisan as possible, for the sake of all Texans.

Probably like you, I have always loved the Legislative Reference Library. There's just something about it; it's location, appearance, content. It's all good. Now they have reached out and asked if they could be the repository of our Capitol Post's. Very shortly any of our members, or any person, will be able to browse these newsletters going back almost three years. As I've previously said, we'll be assiduous in protecting email addresses and personal conversations. Thank you again to Mary Camp and the LRL. This is a huge step forward for our group, and for history.

Ya'll take care and stay safe!

Mike





## **AUSTIN IN THE SIGHTS AT THE CAPITOL**

Mayor Watson will be returning to the Capitol after he is sworn in. The 88<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas legislature begins at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 10 2023. Several bills have been pre-filed to change the City of Austin from a self-governing Capital to a district with control by the State of Texas.



## **FORMER SPEAKER TOM CRADDICK FILES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL**



The Dean of the House, former Speaker Tom Craddick has pre-filed legislation to create a Violence Hotline.

State Rep. Tom Craddick on Friday filed House Bill 915, the first of its kind, to create a workplace violence hotline in memory of 19-year-old Veronica Sanchez, who was killed in a workplace incident in February.

"Veronica's Hotline will provide all Texans a safe hotline to call if they ever feel they are in danger in the workplace," said Craddick in a new release. "We cannot undo the tragedy that has befallen the Sanchez family and our community. However, we can create resources to help those who feel as though they are in danger in the workplace." –Midland Reporter Telegram

Speaker Craddick was elected from Midland in 1968 and has served for 54 years. He has served 27 legislative sessions from the 61<sup>st</sup> to the 88<sup>th</sup>. He may be the longest serving legislator in history and is undoubtedly one of the most prolific sponsors of beneficial legislation.

# TEXAS A&M DEDICATES BUSH COMBAT DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Chancellor Sharp and Texas A&M have also renewed their contract to run Los Alamos in New Mexico. See below for news of the George H.W.Bush Combat Development Center in College Station.

*The George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex (BCDC) is an applied research and test center like no other in the United States.*

*The BCDC was dedicated Friday — three short years after the Texas A&M System forged a partnership with the U.S. Army Futures Command.*

*As I told 250 invited guests from across the country, "What we do for the military, we do in a hurry."*

*Located at Texas A&M-RELLIS, the BCDC is a hub for collaboration between the military and R&D partners from universities, industry, national labs and the tech sector.*

*The complex will raise the tempo and lower the cost of innovation on prototypes by accelerating the pace of testing, data analysis and feedback from experts — including warfighters themselves.*

*Please take a few minutes to watch a new video on the capabilities of the [BAM range](#), a one-of-a-kind hypersonic tunnel that will save time and money in race to surpass China and Russia in several vital technologies.*

*Here is more about the ceremony: [BCDC dedication](#)*

# BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE NELSON WOLFF TO RETIRE AFTER 21 YEARS



Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, 82, will retire at the end of this year after 21 years as County Judge. Judge Wolff represented Bexar County in the Texas House from 1971 to 1973 and the Texas Senate from 1973 to 1975.

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

After Ken Armbrister was hacked last week and we started getting suspicious emails (from Russia?) asking for money, I sent out a notice to our members not to reply to the emails about Ken’s purported injury and hospitalization. I received a reply from one of his former colleagues in the Senate that said, “I knew it wasn’t Kenny because he didn’t say anything about golf.”

## **HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

Here's hoping that everyone has a safe, happy holiday season. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy Hanukkah! All the best for the New Year!!

## **HOLIDAY SONG**

Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters - Mele Kalikimaka

<https://youtu.be/hEvGKUXW0il>

